

REMARKS

The above amendments to the above-captioned application along with the following remarks are being submitted as a full and complete response to the Official Action dated April 14, 2008. A request for Continued Examination (RCE) is being submitted concurrently herewith. In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, the Examiner is respectfully requested to give due reconsideration to this application, to indicate the allowability of the claims, and to pass this case to issue. An RCE is being filed concurrently herewith.

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-10 are under consideration in this application. Claims 1-2 and 4-8 are being amended, as set forth above and in the attached marked-up presentation of the claim amendments, in order to more particularly define and distinctly claim Applicants' invention. All the amendments to the claims are supported by the specification. Applicants hereby submit that no new matter is being introduced into the application through the submission of this response.

Formality Rejections

Claims 1-2 and 4-8 were objected to for informalities. Claims 1-10 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as not being enabled, and under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. As indicated, the claims are being amended as required by the Examiner. Accordingly, the withdrawal of the outstanding informality rejection is in order, and is therefore respectfully solicited.

Prior Art Rejections

Claim 1 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) as being unpatentable over the newly-cited Lee (US5,473,599) in view of the newly-cited Jensen et al. (US 7,092,354). This rejection has been carefully considered, but is most respectfully traversed, as more fully discussed below.

The cited references and their combination do not teach or suggest such a unique feature of the present invention wherein the identification information of an active virtual router is notified to a standby virtual router. The present invention discloses a technique of realizing the VRRP service in the case where the packet transmission router for providing the

VRRP service has a virtual router (VR) function. The present invention intends that, by synchronizing the VR within the active packet transmission router with the VR within the standby packet transmission router, even when the VR within the active packet transmission router fails, the VR within the standby packet transmission router can accomplish the transfer function of the VR within the active packet transmission router without any problem.

The cited references and their combination neither teach nor describe the following features. (1) The VR within the active packet transmission router is synchronized with the VR within the standby packet transmission router by using the identifier (identifier information) as shown in Fig. 6; and (2) the message format for synchronizing the VR within the active packet transmission router with the VR within the standby packet transmission router is shown in Fig. 9. The message includes a VR configuration flag and a virtual router identifier.

Applicants contend that the cited references and their combination fail to teach or suggest each and every feature of the present invention as recited in independent claim 1. As such, the present invention as now claimed is distinguishable and thereby allowable over the rejections raised in the Office Action. The withdrawal of the outstanding prior art rejections is in order, and is respectfully solicited.

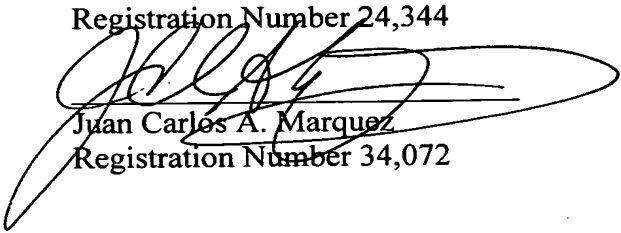
Conclusion

In view of all the above, clear and distinct differences as discussed exist between the present invention as now claimed and the prior art reference upon which the rejections in the Office Action rely. Applicants respectfully contend that the prior art references cannot anticipate the present invention or render the present invention obvious. Rather, the present invention as a whole is distinguishable, and thereby allowable over the prior art.

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully solicited. Should there be any outstanding issues requiring discussion that would further the prosecution and allowance of the above-captioned application, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative at the address and phone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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